THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No Industrial Licence application for the State of Himachal Pradesh is pending for approval of the Central Government as on 1/4/2000.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Trade in Service in the Accontancy Sector

2461. SHRI. GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any decision has been taken to expand trade in service in the accountancy sector between India and Italy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Joint Consultative Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Consiglio Nazionale Dei Dottori Commercialisti (CNDC) and the Consiglio Nazionale Dei Ragioneri (CNR) of Italy at its meeting held in New Delhi during March 3-4-2000 has , interalia, decided to put in-place a mechanism by which the services of the small and medium sized accountancy firms of both the countries will be available to the advantage of those who require their professional services in participating in the expanding trade between India and Italy.

Patenting of Indian herbs

2462. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Ayurvedic Doctors in the country appealed to the United States President, during his recent visit to Delhi, to ensure that traditional Indian herbs such as Neem and Turmeric were not patented in the U.S. since these have been in use in India for centuries; and

(b) If so, whether Government would like to impress upon the concerned authorities that above mentioned simple herbs, described in ancient-medical tests as classical ayurveda formulations for treatment of common challenging illness of today, should not be patented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Ayurvedic doctors are reported to have appealed to the President of the United States of America against the patenting of traditional Indian herbs such as, neem, turmeric etc.